

A
CATECHISM
ON
GONORRHEA



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

A CATECHISM ON GONORRHEA

Q. What is gonorrhea?

A. Gonorrhea is an infection of the male and female sex organs.

Q. Is gonorrhea known by any other names?

A. Yes, it is also known as "clap," "strain," "dose," "running range," "female trouble."

Q. Are gonorrhea and syphilis different diseases?

A. They are different diseases and one can not turn into the other. However, both diseases can occur in the same person at the same time.

Q. What is the cause of gonorrhea?

A. Gonorrhea is caused by a germ.

Q. How does one get gonorrhea?

A. Adults get gonorrhea by having sexual intercourse with someone infected with gonorrhea. Children, also contract gonorrhea by sexual intercourse with others infected with gonorrhea. Little girls can contract gonorrhea from their infected mothers by wiping themselves with towels which their infected mothers have used. Sometimes little girls are infected by thermometers that are not cleaned before they are used.

Q. Why is there a law for physicians to place medicine in the eyes of the Newborn baby?

A. Because the eyes of newborn babies can be infected with gonorrhea during birth if the mother is infected.

Q. Can gonorrhea be passed through foods?

A. Gonorrhea is never transmitted by foods.

Q. Is there a non-communicable stage of gonorrhea?

A. No, if gonorrhea germs are present in the sex organs there is always the possibility of infection.

Q. Should patients infected with gonorrhea be quarantined?

A. This is not necessary if the patient follows treatment instructions and refrains from sexual intercourse until cured.

Q. What is the proper treatment for gonorrhea?

A. If you are infected, place yourself in the care of a licensed physician. He knows best the proper treatment to prescribe. He should also advise no alcoholic drinks, no hard work or exercise, and no sex excitement. Avoid drug store treatment and the quack doctor.

Q. Can gonorrhea patients who are under proper treatment be allowed to work as maids?

A. Domestic servants infected with gonorrhea should not care for infants or small children. Except for nursing of small children there is no reason why maids infected with gonorrhea may not be employed. Only rarely, if at all, do adults contract gonorrhea other than through sexual intercourse.

Q. How much treatment is necessary to make a gonorrhea patient non-communicable?

A. Everyone infected with gonorrhea is communicable until cured. This may require several weeks to several months or longer.

Q. What is the reason for the present nation-wide campaign against gonorrhea?

A. An unknown number of women are infected with gonorrhea which many of them call "female trouble." Gonorrhea causes much disability and sterility. It is one of the most crippling of diseases for both men and women. Many men and women in all sections of the country are infected with gonorrhea.

Q. Is the treatment and cure of gonorrhea expensive?

A. The modern treatment of gonorrhea is not expensive. The sulfonamide drugs now available to all doctors can be obtained at a reasonable price. Complicated cases requiring hospitalization and operations are, of course, expensive but fortunately most cases are not complicated.

Q. Does one attack of gonorrhea prevent future attacks?

A. No, gonorrhea can be contracted repeatedly.

Q. How can gonorrhea be controlled?

A. Gonorrhea can be controlled when persons infected become aware of their infection and take prompt and efficient medical treatment. This means good treatment must be readily available for all, for those who can pay for treatment as well as for those who cannot pay. Persons who can pay for their treatment should go promptly to a reliable physician at the first sign of infection. Persons who cannot pay should go to a clinic for treatment. Clinics should be conveniently located to every community. They should have good equipment and trained personnel.

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